

E. D'AMBROSIO – S. GANDINI

A WAY OF MIND AND HEART

BUDDHIST AND CHRISTIANS

When questioned regarding the essence of his teaching, Bodhidharma, the first patriarch of Buddhism in China, said simply: "Nothing sacred, grand opening."

The authors of this book, who are partners in life as well as in the search for faith, are convinced, based on their experience, that religion is the result of practice. So even inter-religious dialogue, in this case between Buddhists and Christians, it is not developed on a theological or metaphysical dimension but as testimony to a living experience. This living experience is born from the meeting of two similar sensitivities and the path they have undertaken together.

Practice and sharing are the two qualifying terms of this extraordinary and original text: the former is intended to emphasize that there cannot be a religious belief that does not lead to a consistent practice with it; while the latter claims that the characteristic dimension of religious experience has to be found in the opening capacity.

Remo Cacitti writes in the presentation: The problem of the definition of this work's literary genre can be dealt by evoking the extraordinary document which is the Confessions of Augustine of Hippo: a sincere recogni-

tion of his own finitude and fragility, a situation which is revealed, however, in a hymn of praise to God which tells his life, evoking the joys hopes pains disillusionment meetings abandon discoveries losses

THE AUTHORS

Elisabetta D'Ambrosio, graduated in biological sciences after classical studies and then devoted herself to teaching and dealing, among other things, with integration and inter-culturalism.

Sergio Gandini, a graduate in philosophy, teaches philosophy and history in high school: he has always cultivated poetry, has published several collections, and taught courses and conferences in this field.

Elisabetta has been practicing for many years scouting, fascinated by the "spirituality of the road" and has gotten in touch with the experience of Taizé, Sergio with Soto Zen tradition of Maestro Deshimaru.

Elizabeth and Sergio, both born in Milan in 1956, are married and have two children.

Together they embarked on a journey in search of spiritual and common practice: they have attended several retreats at the monastery of Monte

Mesma Orta; they have followed in part the community The Morning Star of Galgagnano and then the Association Vangelo and Zen conducted in Milan and Desio by father Luciano Mazzocchi; and have also followed the teachings of the Vietnamese Zen Maestro Thich Nhat Hanh, the founder of the practice of Plum Village community in France.

